

COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN FOR THE VILAS COUNTY FOREST
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CHAPTER 100

Rev. 03/3/2019

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100 MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of management on the Vilas County forest is to utilize, improve and maintain the ability of forest lands to produce timber and income from timber products while maintaining and increasing outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to Vilas County. Maintenance of forest health and active forest management will provide sustained yield of traditional and special forest products, provide for expanded areas for recreational uses of many types and maintain the natural processes for ecosystem services.

102 PURPOSE

The resources, such as those provided by the County Forest lands, provide a major base for addressing the ecological and socioeconomic needs of society. Maintenance of forest health and active forest management for multiple use will provide the ability of the forest to provide sustained yield of traditional and special forest products, maintain the natural processes for ecosystem services, provide county revenue and maintain and improve areas for recreational uses of many types.

Natural resources on lands of the Vilas County Forest will be protected to the extent possible from natural catastrophes such as fire, insect and disease outbreaks, and from human threats such as encroachment, over-utilization of forest and land resources, environmental degradation from human use and excessive development patterns. The forest and lands will be managed for watershed and soil protection, protection and maintenance of biotic diversity, protection of cultural and historic resources and protection of forest integrity, forest structure and forest productivity, and maintenance and development of recreational uses and facilities which are compatible with natural resource management goals.

This mission will be carried out in the true sense of “shared use” while enhancing, conserving and protecting natural resources on a sustainable basis for present and future generations. The resources, such as those provided by the County Forest, provide a major

base for addressing the socioeconomic and ecological needs of society.

Socioeconomic needs of the County are met directly by:

- Direct creation of employment opportunities in the forestry, timber harvesting, timber hauling, timber processing and land construction industries.
- Direct Economic returns to the County and businesses through timber sale revenues
- Provision of places of opportunity for motorized and non-motorized outdoor recreation.
- Provision of raw materials to the timber, lumbering, pulping, and paper industries
- Provision of natural foods collection by residents including berries, mushrooms, wild game and fish
- Provision of specialty products such as firewood, Christmas Trees, and boughs

Socioeconomic needs of the County are met indirectly by:

- Creation of employment opportunities within the large and expanding tourism industry
- Creation of employment opportunities in value added industries such as flooring, paneling, and cabinet making businesses.
- Increases in property tax values from presence of forest and abundant outdoor recreational opportunities

Benefiting quality of life by maintenance of forest and undeveloped lands.

Ecological needs of the County and region are met by provision of and maintenance of ecosystem services including:

- Storm water absorption and filtering
- Carbon absorption, storage and sequestration
- Provision of wildlife habitat
- Provision of plant habitat
- Soil stabilization and filtering
- Oxygen generation through photosynthesis

Temperature moderation through wind breaking, summer cooling and winter thermal cover

105 GOAL OF THE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

(Hereafter referred to as the “Plan”)

To administer management of County Forest Lands in a manner consistent with the mission statement and the purpose and direction consistent with the County Forest Law as stated in s. 28.11. This administration will be under direction of the Vilas County Forest, Recreation and Land Committee, while providing consideration to input from citizens and groups. This County. The purpose of the County Forest Law being:

“ ... to provide the basis for a permanent program of county forests and to enable and encourage the planned development and management of the County Forests for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, watershed protection and stabilization of stream flow, giving full recognition to the concept of multiple use to assure maximum public benefits; to protect the public rights, interests and investments in such lands; and to compensate the counties for the public uses, benefits and privileges these lands provide; all in a manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which such lands lie.”

110 COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

VILAS COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN POLICY

This plan shall incorporate or reference all official County Forest policies, pertinent county regulation, planning documents and the needs and actions for the period 2021 through 2035.

This plan is the authority for management on county forest lands enrolled under Wisconsin County Forest Law s.28.11. This plan may be encompassed within required local planning efforts.

110.1 MANAGEMENT PLANNING OBJECTIVES

Management planning shall be used to establish objectives, policies, procedures, rules and regulations, and to promote an efficient and orderly program of development and management of the County Forest Lands, including recreational opportunities in the interest of:

1. Determining needs and priorities of the public.
2. Achieving goals set forth in the mission statement of this plan.
3. Satisfying the statutory requirements of s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.
4. Satisfying requirements for participation in various state and federal aid programs.
5. Providing broad long-term and detailed short-term guidelines for actions.

110.2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

Section 28.11, Wis. Stats., places the responsibility for the plan development on the Committee with technical assistance from the Department and other agencies. In Vilas county, the leads for development of the plan shall be shared by the County Forest Administrator and the Parks and Recreation Administrator at the direction of the committee.

The duties of the Forest Administrator during development of this plan will include management of staff, facilities and equipment as identified as the responsibility of the Forestry and Land departments, management for forest types for optimum production of forest products as well as creation, development, and enhancement of wildlife habitat, The Forest Administrator will have the duties of documentation procedures and processes for soil stabilization, water resource protection and natural resource protection measures for watersheds, stabilization of stream flows, protection of threatened and endangered species, cultural and historic sites as required by for all activity on the County Forest Property and required by Section 28.11 (including required interactions, notifications and permit approvals by Wisconsin DNR County Forest Liaison and County Forest Specialist), the Wisconsin Public Lands handbook and pertinent Forest Certification agreements. The Forest Administrator will also be responsible for creation and maintenance of policies, regulations, and ordinances as required to protect the County Forest Lands and insure

production of forest products, protection wildlife habitat, and protection of soil, protection of water resources and protection of natural resources on the County Forest Property in all activities related to forestry activity or forest roads.

The duties of the Parks and Recreation Administrator during development of this plan will include management of staff, facilities and equipment as identified as the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department, development and management of special use areas including parks, trails and recreational facilities on the County Forest Property under standards and requirements as required by Section 28.11 (including required interactions, notifications and permit approvals by Wisconsin DNR County Forest Liaison and County Forest Specialist), the Wisconsin Public Lands handbook and pertinent Forest Certification agreements. The Parks and Recreation Administrator will also be responsible for creation and maintenance of policies, regulations, and ordinances as required to protect the County Forest Lands and insure public access to the lands for a wide range of public forest users, insure continued access to forest products produced, protection wildlife habitat, protection of soil, protection of water resources and protection of all natural resources in all activities related to recreational use or recreational development on the County Forest Property.

During development of the plan public participation should be utilized to provide for public participation throughout the planning process. Public participation and inputs into the plan should consider s. 28.11, Wis. Stats., which governs the County Forest program and provides the sideboards to which this plan must adhere.

Vilas County's public participation process includes the following:

1. The Forest Administrator and the Parks and Recreation Administrator, in conjunction with staff, will utilize the statewide plan template and create an initial draft of each chapter.
2. Each chapter will be presented to the Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee at a regularly scheduled and posted meeting for initial review and input from committee. The meeting posting will be advertised appropriately. Media in attendance will be asked

to notify the public of 15-year plan update process.

3. At the next monthly meeting of the committee, the draft chapters will be discussed and the draft will be posted on the County forestry website for a one month comment period from the public. Forest user groups will be notified of the website posting.
4. Comments from the public will be incorporated into the plan prior to the next regular meeting and the Committee will finalize and approve each chapter following public input.
5. Expected schedule of review and finalization will be as follows:
 - Chapters 100 and 200- Committee Review and Input February 2020, Finalize with Public Comment Consideration March 2020, provide copy to full county board for review following finalization.
 - Chapters 300 and 400- Committee Review and Input March 2020, Finalize with Public Comment Consideration April 2020, provide copy to full county board for review following finalization.
 - Chapters 500 and 600- Committee Review and Input April 2020, Finalize with Public Comment Consideration May 2020, provide copy to full county board for review following finalization.
 - Chapters 700 and 800- Committee Review and Input May 2020, Finalize with Public Comment Consideration June 2020, provide copy to full county board for review following finalization
 - Chapters 900 and 1000- Committee Review and Input June 2020, Finalize with Public Comment Consideration July 2020, provide copy to full county board for review following finalization.
 - Chapters 2000, 3000, 4000- Committee Review and Input July 2020, Finalize with Public Comment Consideration August 2020, provide copy to full county board for review following finalization.
 - Public Hearing Early September 2020
 - Approval of County Board September 22, 2020
 - Forward approved plan to the DNR for approval October 1, 2020

110.3 APPROVAL OF THE PLAN

Comments received should be given consideration during plan development. The Committee will then present the plan to the County Board for their approval. Following County Board approval, the plan will then be forwarded to the Department for approval of the plan by the DNR is required by s. 28.11(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

110.4 DISTRIBUTION OF THE PLAN

Each member of the Forestry, Recreation and Land committee will have a copy of each chapter for initial review and input. Upon approval of each chapter to go to public comment, each member of the County Board will receive the approved chapters for review. County Board members will have access to a copy of the full plan plan at the time of approval. Updated official copies will be maintained by the Forest Administrator and the Parks and Recreation Administrator and available electronically on the Forestry Website.

Plan and future amendments will be: Electronic versions of the plan or plan amendments or electronic links to the documents will be distributed to the following:

1. Department of Natural Resources - Liaison and County Forest Specialist.
2. Executive Director- Wisconsin County Forest Association.

110.5 UPDATING THE PLAN

Necessary changes in policy and procedure will be incorporated into the plan by amendment as required. Amendments to the plan will require approval by both the County Board and the Department of Natural Resources as stated in s. 28.11(5)(a), Wis. Stats. Changes to official County Forest Blocking map require County Board approval. The annual county board approved work plan, budget, and annual accomplishment report are appended to the plan and do not require official DNR approval. In addition, changes to Chapters 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000 do not require a plan amendment or official DNR approval, with the exception of the official County Forest Blocking map.

110.6 COORDINATION WITH OTHER PLANNING

The development of this plan and any future amendments to this plan will include considerations, and if warranted, participation in other local and regional planning efforts including planning of actions within the Local communities affected by the County Forest, the Vilas County Outdoor Recreation Plan, the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

115 FOREST AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES PLANNING

The Committee will utilize procedure as set forth in the Department of Natural Resources Public Forest Lands Handbook no. 2460.5 for Forest Resources planning. Silviculture Guidance, supported by Wisconsin's forestry community and Silvicultural Guidance Team may be referenced in forest management activities. WisFIRS will be utilized as the primary tool for forest management planning decisions and tracking of forest resources status. Additional resources such as forest habitat type classification, soil surveys, DNR's Best Management Practices for Water Quality, and DNR's Best Management Practices for Invasive species guidelines may be utilized in forest management decisions.

The Committee will utilize procedure as set forth in the Department of Natural Resources Public Forest Lands Handbook no. 2460.5 for Recreational Resources planning. WisFIRS will be utilized as the primary tool for tracking of forest resources status changed by recreational developments. Additional resources such as DNR Erosion and Stormwater Technical Standards, the DNR Trail Signing Handbook, DNR's Best Management Practices for Water Quality, and DNR's Best Management Practices for Invasive species guidelines may be utilized in recreational planning decisions.

115.1 FOREST CERTIFICATION

Forest Certification is a market-based, non-regulatory forest conservation tool designed to recognize and promote environmentally-responsible forestry and sustainability of forest resources. Certification standards address social and economic welfare as well as environmental protection. The Vilas County Forest follows standards of the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) by approval of the County Board of Supervisors.

FSC certification ensures that products come from responsibly managed forests that provide environmental, social and economic benefits.

The FSC Principles and Criteria provide a foundation for all forest management standards globally, including the FSC US National Standard (v1.0) that guides forest management certification in the U.S.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is a North American 'forest certification standard' and program of SFI Inc., a [non-profit](#) organization. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative is the world's largest single forest certification standard by area. The SFI is headquartered in Ottawa, Ontario Canada and Washington D.C. USA.

Forest Management Standards covers key values such as protection of biodiversity, species at risk and wildlife habitat; sustainable harvest levels; protection of water quality; and prompt regeneration.

All FSC and SFI certifications require independent, third-party audits and are performed by internationally accredited certification bodies. The Vilas County Forest is part of the Wisconsin County Forest Association Group and is audited as part of that group.

115.2 COUNTY COMMITMENT TO FOREST CERTIFICATION

Vilas County's Commitment to -Forest Certification

Our county forests provide a vital contribution to the public by providing economic, environmental and social benefits important to our quality of life. Vilas County believes

that managing forest for future generations requires a commitment and partnership from all the groups and individuals that benefit from these public lands.

Vilas County's Commitment

Within the scope of the Wisconsin County Forest Law and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan of the Vilas County Forest, Vilas County will implement forestry and recreational use practices that promote management of forest and natural resources for shared use of the lands within the forest. All management of the land and forest resources on the Vilas County Forest will include the sustainable harvest of forest products, the protection of special sites, wildlife, plants, water quality and aesthetics.

Vilas County will work in coordination with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other natural resources groups / agencies in providing forestry information to those landowners and individuals impacting forest management in Wisconsin. We will support research efforts to improve the health, productivity, and management of forestlands both internally and through coordinated efforts. In managing the lands within the Vilas County Forest, a spectrum of forestry practices will be employed to achieve our forestry objectives. Both intensive and more extensive forest management techniques will be used to provide for wildlife, forest products, recreation, aesthetics, water quality, aesthetics and ecosystem maintenance. In keeping with this responsibility Vilas County is committed to the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

115.3 FOREST CERTIFICATION GROUP ADMINISTRATION

As the certification group manager, the Department of Natural Resources will be responsible for overall administration of third-party certification efforts. The DNR County Forest Specialist will work in close cooperation with the Wisconsin County Forests Association in coordinating this effort. The group manager's responsibilities will include:

- Record keeping of certification
- Coordinating communication with the certification auditing firms

- Reporting and payment of fees
- Processing new entries and departures from the groups
- Internal compliance monitoring
- Dispute resolution

Detail on the certification group administration is maintained in the Public Forest Lands Handbook.

120 COUNTY AUTHORITY

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan of the Vilas County Forest is the official County Forest authority. The Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee of the County Board enforces the regulations governing the use of lands within the Vilas County Forest.

120.1 ORDINANCES

The county ordinances that apply to the administration and management of the lands within the Vilas County Forest can be found in Chapter 1000XX - _____. In addition, the following will be considered in planning process.

- Zoning ordinance
- Floodplain - Shoreland Zoning ordinance
- Motorized recreation ordinance
- Non-Metallic Mining ordinance

Other (*individual counties list their ordinances here*)

125 COUNTY FOREST PROGRAM HISTORY

125.1 STATEWIDE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTY FORESTS

In 1927, the State Legislature passed the Forest Crop Law, authorizing counties to create county forests. An opinion of the Attorney General with reference to the Forest Crop Law stated that the counties would be exempt from the owner's share of annual tax. In 1929 the law was amended to create the County Forest Reserve Law. The Legislature of 1931 amended the County Forest Reserve Law of 1929. It provided for the payment of County Forest aid of ten cents per acre annually on all land within county forests entered under

the Forest Crop Law. Counties were required to spend this money solely for the development of the county forest. In return for this aid, the state originally collected a seventy-five percent severance tax on the products cut on county forests. This was reduced to fifty percent in 1937 and then to twenty percent of gross sales in 1963. In 1963, several major revisions were made, creating the County Forest Law s28.11. The most notable change was the creation of a permanent program of forests that would be managed in accordance with a 10 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan developed by the county, with the assistance of the Department of Natural Resources. Several grants and loans were created and remain available to counties to compensate for public uses of these county forest lands as stipulated in s28.11. To fulfill additional statutory obligations acreage share payments to towns are currently \$.30/acre, and towns with county forest land receive a minimum of 10% of the stumpage revenue from their respective County Forest each year.

In 2020, twenty-nine counties in Wisconsin owned approximately 2.4 million acres entered under the County Forest Law.

125.2 HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILAS COUNTY FOREST PROGRAM

At one time, much of Wisconsin was covered with magnificent stands of pine, hemlock, and hardwoods on the highlands, and cedar, spruce, and balsam on its lowlands. From 1860 to about 1910, these forests provided raw material for a thriving lumber industry. Because of the need to supply lumber a growing nation, and the lack of sound forest management, over harvesting of the forests and degradation of the landscape resulted. Immigrants rushed to these newly cleared lands, hungry for a place to farm and build their lives. But in just a few years, the soils gave out, catastrophic fires occurred, and many people were forced to seek their fortunes elsewhere. The land was left exhausted and tax delinquent. Counties became the owners of these lands. Some counties approved the sale of lands for creation of what is now the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and many of the land parcels were designated as County Forest under the Wisconsin County Forest program.

Vilas County officially entered lands under the County Forest Reserve Law on March 18,

1933 with the first aid payment being received in January 1935. The first Vilas County Forestry Ordinance was adopted the first on August 26, 1936. Starting in 1940, county appropriations to the forestry accounts from the general fund were started on an irregular basis, depending on needs. From 1950 on, monies were appropriated each year. Vilas County operated from 1936 until 1952 with no administrator. Management of the county land was handled through the Extension Department in cooperation with the Agriculture and Forestry Committee. In 1952, a full-time administrator was hired, A. Richard Guth. By this time, the committee name was changed to Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee, and the Agriculture Committee was separated. A Richard Guth was Forest Administrator until 1957 and was followed by Anthony Mutter who was Administrator until 1965. Walter Mayo was Forest Administrator from 1965 through 1979. From 1979 through 1993 Thomas Fegers, Jr was Forest Administrator. Lawrence L. Stevens was Forest Administrator from 1993 through 2014. John Gagnon was Forest Administrator from 2014 through 2019. In 2012 the Parks and Recreation Administrator Position was created to further the expanding recreational opportunities in Vilas County. Dale Mayo was assigned the Parks and Recreation Administrator at that time and is still currently in that position. The current Forest Administrator is Al Murray. The Forest Administrator and the Parks and Recreation Administrator are directly responsible to the Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee. The Forest Administrator's and Parks and Recreation Administrator's responsibilities and duties are covered in Section 205.1.2.

Vilas County's early history is little known. The first trading post was established in 1818. At that time, there were settlements of Chippewa Indians and lakes and streams of Vilas County provided trading access routes as well as an abundance of fur bearing habitat for traders of that time. In 1856 land was acquired from the General Land Offices for the harvest of timber, but it was 25 years later when harvesting of the pinery began. The exploitation of the forests started in the 1880's when railroads entered the area. Large sawmills were built at Arbor Vitae, Winegar (Presque Isle), Eagle River, Conover, Phelps, and Winchester. Remote lumber camps were established, sometimes in conjunctions with trade locations.

The first logging of the area utilized oxen, horses and waterways for transport of logs to mills and railroads transported the lumber from mills to markets, mostly in the Chicago and Milwaukee areas. Logging was based in the winter when ice roads allowed for efficient transportation of logs to waterways. At that point some of these mills and lumber camp harvesting operations employed over 100 men each. By 1930, most of the choice softwood timber was cut, logging based on waterway transportation came to an end and the many mills closed. This era was known as the cut and run period of logging in Northern Wisconsin.

After the land from cut and run logging, it was cleared and converted to farmland, and an auxiliary summer resort industry was established. Farms grew rapidly after the timber was gone, with dairying becoming the most important; but farming never became extensive, due to the short growing season and relatively unproductive sandy soil types in Northeastern Wisconsin. By 1935, there were 673 farms and 52,279 acres in farmland. Since 1935, farms have steadily declined to 7,500 acres in 1982 with the last dairy farm going out of business in 1978. Major crops were hay, oats, potatoes, and corn. Today, farming is less important in Vilas County than in any other county in the state with 70% of the land in forest cover.

In the 1930's and 1940's timber markets became established for marketing of hardwood lumber for furniture, flooring and cabinetry. Vilas County had limited amounts of hardwood timber for this supply due mainly to limited soil capabilities. Hardwood logs did not float well and railroad systems for transportation of logs from the woods to mills were established. Local mills were again established to produce additional products. Some secondary product mills were established. The 1940's brought introduction of heavy machinery such as Holt tracked machines for pulling log sleighs and steam loaders for loading of logs. Railroads again provided transportation of lumber to larger company towns. The 1950's and 1960's brought the establishment of the paper industry in Wisconsin, which changed log markets to include use of smaller diameter forest products and a new era in logging and forest management.

Today, few sawmills remain in Vilas County but the forest land provide raw materials for a thriving number of lumber mills, paper mills, and pulp mills across Wisconsin and the entire Midwest. Today, farming is less important in Vilas County than in any other county in the state with 70% of the land in forest cover. Today, tourism has become a major industry within Vilas County.

125.3 WISCONSIN COUNTY FORESTS ASSOCIATION

Vilas County is a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association, Inc. (WCFA). This Association was incorporated on May 15, 1968 under Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes, without stock and not for profit. The WCFA Board of Directors is composed of fifteen delegates elected from County Forestry Committees who are members of the Association and two members at large.

WCFA provides a forum for consideration of issues and policy that are common to all of the county committees responsible for their respective County Forest programs, including those programs encompassed under s. 28.11 and chapter 77, Wis. Stats. WCFA also provides leadership and counsel to County Forest administrators and forestry committees through regular meetings and active committees on legislative and recreational issues. WCFA develops and implements a strategic plan. The organization's mission statement is as follows:

Wisconsin County Forests Association provides leadership uniting the interests of the world's largest county forest program while ensuring long term forest health and sustainability.

125.4 FOREST TRENDS

The values and uses of the lands within the Vilas County Forest contribute significantly to fulfilling many of society's ecological and socioeconomic needs now and into the future. Changing trends will impact the values and uses of the land of the Vilas County Forest in coming years.

- Conflict over timber management will likely increase as more individuals and

groups demand greater amounts of recreational use and development on County Forest lands. Efforts to educate the public on the merits of sound forest management, the importance of forestry and recreational income to Vilas County, and prioritization of “optimum production of forest products” as stipulated in s28.11 will continue.

- Preclusion of natural fire on the landscape and heavy harvesting history has forever modified the natural forest composition and structure. Efforts will continue to educate the public on the need for active forest management as a replacement of large scaled forest disturbance, such as fire which may be absent.
- Wisconsin’s forests are naturally changing due to forest succession. Most of the County Forest acreage statewide is a result of natural regeneration or planting from the early to mid-1900’s. Where soil types and local conditions allow, mid to late successional forest types such as northern hardwood forest, are replacing the early successional aspen-birch, oak and jack pine forests established from 1940’s through the 1970’s.
- The aspen cover type, a key habitat for many of the state’s premier game species including deer, ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare and woodcock will continue to decline without action. Aspen cover types are also key habitat for a number of endangered species and species of special concern within Wisconsin. Across Wisconsin, the county forest system currently has 15% of the State’s public land base and 24% of the aspen resource making County forests a major source of habitat for wildlife species requiring early successional forest habitat.
- Conflict over timber management practices will likely continue to increase as more individuals and groups demand greater involvement in forestry decisions. Practices such as clearcutting and even-aged management will continue to be controversial. Efforts to educate the public on the merits of these sound forest management techniques will continue.
- Vilas County may experience funding problems as municipalities are being required to provide more services with less money. Potential losses of revenue from decreased shared revenues and resistance to tax increases may make county timber revenues increasingly important to the finances of county governments. This is

complicated by increasing public pressure to reduce timber harvests on county forests and increased demand for lands designated for public park, trails and other recreational uses which often conflict with timber harvesting schedules.

- Increasing knowledge about a wider variety of species and their habitat needs is leading to a growing list of threatened and endangered species. This could lead to improvements in managing the forest and mitigating impacts to these species. Mitigating measures have the potential to impede recreational and forest management activities. Refer to Chapter 800 (840) for specifics on this subject.
- Invasive exotic species pose an ever-increasing threat to the County Forest lands. Gypsy moth, Asian long-horned beetle, garlic mustard, buckthorn, honeysuckle have all gained a foothold in Wisconsin's forests. Refer to Chapter [REDACTED] for specifics on this subject.
- Increasing knowledge about climate change and the resulting impacts on habitat change for plant and wildlife needs could lead to changes in managing the forest and mitigating impacts from climate change.
- The County Forest land is considered to be an outdoor classroom serving all age groups. It consists of diverse communities with a large variety of plant and animal life giving ample opportunity for study and observation.

125.5 PROTECTING THE PUBLIC RESOURCE

As stated in State Statute 28.11 (1), the county forest program enables and encourages “the planned development and management of the county forests for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, watershed protection and stabilization of stream flow, giving full recognition to the concept of multiple-use to assure maximum public benefits to protect the public rights, interests and investments in such lands; and to compensate the counties for the public uses, benefits and privileges these lands provide; all in a manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which such lands lie.”